Truly popular writings,
such as have the noble object
of distributing useful knowledge
and to refute the dogmatic
asciions of an arrogant
half-knowledge, that have
accumulated for centuries,
are successfully written
only by those, who are
in possession of the
honorable testimony of
profoundest knowledge, as
you are.

With what admirable
clearness has my friend Arago
made popular the most complicated
theorems of astronomy & optics in
the small essays of the
Annuaire du Bureau des
Longitudes. It is the first
mentioned consideration which
constitutes also the praise of
the fine botanical work, to
which you, dear doctor, have
had the kindness to prefix
my name. I long for known
of your admirable embryological
investigations. The tasteful
getting up of your popular work
on petrefactions will add as
much to renew amongst us
a scientific study of nature.
Accept kindly with the
expression of my thanks
renewedly my friendly & high
esteem.

Potsdam 6 Nov 1852 Al Humboldt

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It is very painful to me, that I may not write to England for a contribution of 150 pounds in furtherance of the publication of your very important fauna of the Mollusken of Europe. I have now twice received replies — such indelicate ones — from men in London, who rank high in science there. We Germans believed in the Croesus-wealth of the British & always wanted them to pay; so that now I have framed the fixed resolve to make no more similar attempts. Moreover, the geographical society is really very much pressed for means. You will not misinterpret these lines, dear Doctor, & not ascribe them to any want of sympathy.

With the most distinguished Esteem Your obedient

Potsdam 17 Nov 1852 Al v Humboldt

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I must call upon your fullest consideration, dear Professor, when in a very excited life & pressed by the near departure of the King & the uncomfortableness of my 86th birthday, I offer you my sincerest thanks for your honoring memorial & presents at so late a day. Your ~~favor~~ four seasons may well rival in tasteful genuinely artistic execution with the most excellent things of the kind, that England or France has produced. I was not able to refrain expressing my admiration to Mr Kretzschmar at the excellent representation of summer & Spring (Pages 292.!! 296!)

Through a new method these have become new creations. I am also glad that through your kindness I have learned to know the names of such meritorious men as Messrs Grunbeck & Benedict. But much as I love to dwell upon the talents of Kretzschmar, whose great Landscape surpasses in Xylography all that one might venture to dream, or the talents of the brave Mr v. Kisthitz, who understands how to elevate even Northern meadow-ground & herb-covered mountainsides into landscapes, I yet am dissatisfied with you when you speak much too modestly of your own labors. You did not intend to furnish here strictly scientific, purely physiological, morphological observations, such as natural philosophers thankfully received from you formerly; you intended to revive, to extend knowledge; to be useful & to lead

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back to our kinswork of nature. In the present condition of the German people at large this is doubly gratifying; there remains to the German what he calls beautifully & significantly in his language the "Freie", that is, the air, the enjoyment of free nature.

With the most distinguished esteem & friendly devotion

Your obedient

Alex. Humboldt

Potsdam 16 Sept 1855

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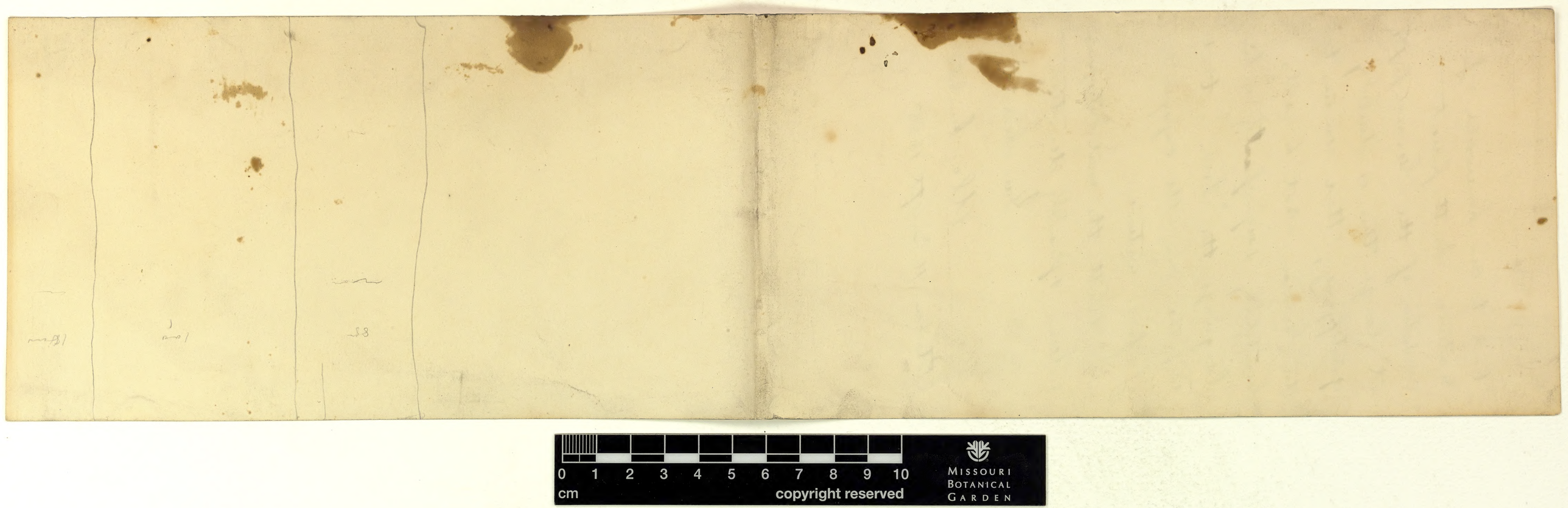
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How can you believe, honored Sir, that your meritorious labors have remained so unknown to me? I am much rejoiced at your undertaking of a forrest-map of Germany; but I fear me much, that, for instance, for your determination of the areal, or of the proportion of German ground, which is covered with what may be called woods you will lack material to a great extent. I shall be very happy to ask my Friend Dove & particularly the brothers Schlagintweit, who have written two beautiful works on the .... Alps & also upon the contrast of the forrest-region of inner Asia outside of the tropical zone. ... we can also quite properly invite Dr Schacht, who is at the same time forrester & botanist to furnish contributions. I myself have no knowledge of the matter .....

.....

the so much admired glory of the vegetation of our climates as related to the highland of the South-American Cordilleras.

I wish particularly, that you will quite exactly compare the former climate of the forrest-covered Germany with the present climate of our timber-less country & the contrast between the trans-allegany also timberless lands that lie between the Ohio & the Missouri, making use of the excellent works Lorin Blodget Climatology of the United States (85)," Influence of the

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IV 2

Forrests" page 405, not
forgetting that the greater
part of the climate occurs
not at the same place, where
the the wood is cut down,
but at many Hundreds of miles
distance. I believe, that
the influence of the forrests &
of the leaves upon the three
related processes of reciprocal
Eradiation, Evaporation and . . . .
. (action des forets par l'abré
contre l'action solair l'évaporation
et le rayonnement de rivier.
(Asie Centrale T III p 191–208)
has never been sufficiently taken
into consideration. You will
find most important matter on
the subject in Boussingault's
Economie Rurale Edition
1851 T. II. p. 707, 759 et
de l . . . . des rekement
sur la diminution des courants
d'eau T II p 730–759;
still more in Valles' Etudes
des inondations, leur causes
et effets 1857. Incertitudes
des effets des abrisement et
du rebrisement p 419–431;
as well as the fine chapter
. . . . du forets p 435–477

Receive from an 89 years old
man, who is very busy & suffers
from departing strength, the
expression of warm & high
esteem & of friendly devotion.
Berlin 6 Dec 1858 Al Humboldt

Be very sure to give your work
a thoroughly scientific character.
Amongst the mass of men there
exists a deep rooted dogmatic of erroneous
opinions, which our so called popular writings
don't at all eradicate, whilst there is nothing
more arrogant, contradictory & even full of false ... facts.

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88

Steinbells letter

to ——?

should be identified
probably as translation
of a German one

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